Faiza M. Jamil (Ph.D., Educational Psychology-Applied Developmental Science, University of Virginia) is an associate professor in Education and Human Development. Her research follows two complementary strands, with a particular focus on issues of educational equity: 1) understanding the underlying psychological processes – cognitive, social, and emotional – that influence teachers’ classroom behaviors and career decisions, and 2) understanding the ways in which teacher-child interactions influence children’s learning and development. She teaches courses related to human development in the Learning Sciences Doctoral Program, for which she serves as program coordinator, and Undergraduate Teacher Education Programs, to which she brings her own experiences as a K-12 teacher in three countries.

With significant teacher shortages in a growing number of states, and declining enrollment in teacher education programs, the field of education faces complex challenges for which it must prepare a new generation of teachers. In this presentation, I will first review findings from my line of research aimed at advancing the theory and measurement of effective teacher development as it relates to teacher skills, knowledge, and beliefs. I will then describe how findings from this first line of research has led me to initiate a new set of studies specifically targeting issues of educational equity in teacher recruitment and retention. I argue that because decision-making processes within teacher labor markets and the causes of racial and ethnic achievement gaps are both highly localized, more nuanced understanding of the contextual drivers – sociodemographic, historical, and political – of teacher recruitment and retention, and how it influences student academic outcomes, is important.

Dr. Jamil was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2019.